has become a *parenchymella* at the moment of fixation; here, therefore, no invagination takes place. This, of course, applies in each series only to the primitive larval forms, and not to those which have been modified by tachygenesis. M. Delage's remark, therefore, does not throw any particular light on the problem of the place of the Sponges in classification, and the terms that he employs to designate a group of the animal kingdom already named by the Greeks might lead to error with reference to the signification of what it has been agreed to call the *embryonic layers*.

It remains to be learnt whether the histological characters have as little value as is apparently sometimes believed. Remembering that the entire vegetable kingdom owes its essential characters to the fact that the elements of the plant shut themselves up in an envelope of cellulose, that the faculty of charging themselves with chitin possessed by the free region of the epithelia of Arthropods has suppressed in these animals the vibratile cilia, orientated their organization in an altogether peculiar direction, and justified the creation of a branch for them—it will not appear to be immaterial that the Sponges and the Polyps possess respectively, and each in an exclusive manner as regards the other group, choanocytes or nematoblasts. This is also a consequence of the properties in their protoplasm.

PROCEEDINGS OF LEARNED SOCIETIES.

GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

November 17th, 1897.—Dr. Henry Hicks, F.R.S., President, in the Chair.

The following communication was read:—

'Observations on the Genus *Aclisina*, de Koninck, with Descriptions of British Species, and of some other Carboniferous Gastropoda.' By Miss J. Donald, of Carlisle.

The Author makes some preliminary observations on the genus *Aclisina*, and considers it advisable to regard *A. pulchra* as the type of the genus, while the so-called *A. striatula* must be placed among the *Murchisoniæ*, and *A. nana* is placed in a new genus. The Author gives a diagnosis of *Aclisina*, de Kon., belonging to the family Turritellidæ, and describes the British species, twelve of which are new, including two new forms placed in a subgenus.

Of the family Murchisonidæ, and in the section *Aclisoides* of the genus *Murchisonia*, the form *A. striatula*, de Kon., and a variety are described; and a diagnosis of the new genus, in which *A. nana* of de Koninck is placed, is given, followed by a description of the species.